# The Alaskan Way Viaduct & Seawall Replacement Project











#### **For More Information:**

### Visit the Web site at:

www.wsdot.wa.gov/ projects/viaduct

# Call the hotline:

206-269-4421

### Send an e-mail to:

viaduct@wsdot.wa.gov

#### Send a letter to:

Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement Project c/o Washington State Department of Transportation 999 Third Avenue, Suite 2424 Seattle, WA 98104

# 2006 Legislation Links Efforts on Regional Transportation

The 2006 Washington State Legislature adjourned on March 8 with new legislation regarding the replacement of the Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall. The Regional Transportation Governance bill, ESHB 2871, was intended to link efforts to improve transportation mobility and transit options in the Puget Sound region. Recognizing that the Alaskan Way Viaduct and SR 520 are crucial highways in the regional transportation system, the legislation addresses the planning, oversight, and public input required to ensure continued progress.

# The key highlights:

# **Project planning**

The bill requires WSDOT to complete all environmental and financial work before starting construction. This includes preparing a finance plan that identifies funding sources, cash flow, staging and construction phasing plans.

# **Independent oversight**

An expert review panel will review the project's financing and implementation plans, and submit a report to the Governor, the Legislature's joint state transportation committees, and the Office of Financial Management by September 1, 2006.

The review panel will be made up of five to ten experts, selected by the

chairs of the State Senate and House Transportation Committees, the Secretary of Transportation, and the Governor to assure a balance of disciplines. The panel will be formed by June 1.

After reviewing the panel's findings, the Governor will declare whether the finance plans for both alternatives are feasible and sufficient to complete the project. The panel will not recommend one alternative over the other. For more information on the panel, visit the project Web site at http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/Viaduct/ExpertReviewPanel/.

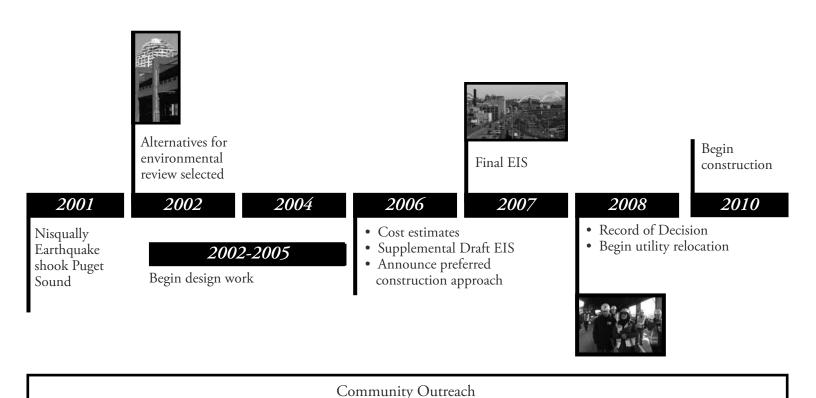
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"(1) The expert review panel shall consist of five to ten members who are recognized experts in relevant fields, such as planning, engineering, finance, law, the environment, emerging transportation technologies, geography, and economics."

# **Public input**

The bill requires the City of Seattle to hold an advisory vote in November, or hold public hearings on the expert review panel's findings and adopt an ordinance stating the City Council's preferred option by November 1, 2006. The advisory vote is not binding.

# **Project Timeline**



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